

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01

SCI-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 /039 W

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R 190133Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7744

INFO CINCPACREPPHIL

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: NAVY VD PROJECT AT OLONGAPO

REF: STATE 226912

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN PROPOSED VD PROJECT FROM THE START. WE THINK THE OBJECTIVES ARE DESIRABLE BUT WE HAVE STRESSED FROM THE OUTSET THAT THE PROJECT MUST ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE TO RESPONSIBLE LEVELS IN THE GOP IN VIEW OF THE GOP'S UNDERSTANDABLE SENSITIVITY TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A PROJECT. WE HAVE INDICATIONS OF LOW-LEVEL PHILIPPINE CONCURRENCE IN THE PROJECT BUT STILL DO NOT HAVE WHAT WE REGARD AS SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL OR SPECIFIC ENOUGH ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROJECT TO CONCUR IN ITS INITIATION. APPROPRIATE SUBIC MEDICAL AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO WORK ON THIS ASPECT AND HAVE BEEN ASKED TO FORWARD AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF OLONGAPO AND WHATEVER WRITTEN CONCURRENCE THEY HAVE OBTAINED FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AUTHORITIES FOR EMBASSY EVALUATION.

2. THIS SUBJECT, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, ALREADY  
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OCCASIONED CAUSTIC REMARKS BY SECRETARY ROMULO LAST YEAR AND ANY-

THING THAT IMPUGNS THE NOBILITY OF PHILIPPINE WOMANHOOD IS GOING TO BE TOUCHY HOWEVER WE MANAGE THE PROJECT. FOR THAT REASON, WE WOULD MUCH PREFER THAT THERE BE NO PRESS COMMENT ON THE VD PROJECT. IF THERE IS ANY COMMENT, IT SHOULD ONLY REPEAT ONLY BE USED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS. SPOKESMEN SHOULD BE AS SPARING AS POSSIBLE IN THEIR COMMENTS.

3. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS SUBJECT, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT DOD REVIEW CAREFULLY ITS PROPOSED PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE. EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID IMPLYING IN ANY WAY THAT PHILIPPINES IS TO BLAME FOR THE PROBLEM OR THAT U.S. IS TAKING LEAD IN CORRECTING IT. COOPERATION SHOULD BE STRESSED. DOD ATTENTION IS INVITED PARTICULARLY TO PROPOSED ANSWERS 3 AND 5 OF DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE. WITH REFERENCE TO ANSWER 3, PHILIPPINES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE OUTRAGED AT SUGGESTION OLONGAPO IS GREATEST SOURCE OF VD IN U.S. NAVY. SECOND SENTENCE OF ANSWER 3 COULD BE REPHRASED AS FOLLOWS: "YET THEY ARE A SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL PROBLEM". ANSWER 5 WHICH IMPLIES THAT GOP HAS DONE VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL PROBLEM WOULD BE EVEN MORE OUTRAGEOUS IN PHILIPPINE EYES SINCE IT IS LOCAL WISDOM THAT VD IS IMPORTED BY THE ROVING SAILOR. SUGGEST ANSWER BE REPHRASED BY DELETING FIRST SENTENCE, INSERTING THE WORDS, "SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL" IN FRONT OF WORD "FUND" IN SECOND SENTENCE, AND INSERTING NEW SENTENCE BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD SENTENCES: "THE CONTROL OF VD IS IN ANY EVENT A VERY DIFFICULT TASK".

4. FOR OUR INFORMATION, WHAT IS "HANCOCK WONDER PROGRAM"?

5. WE WILL ADVISE WHEN WE HAVE GIVEN GO AHEAD ON PROJECT. UNTIL THEN, PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE HELD. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE REVISION OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE BEFORE IT IS GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL.'  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, VENEREAL DISEASES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 19 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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